



southern california dx club

APRIL 2002

International DX Convention

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Vísalia, California, USA

www.scdxc.org

Skip's Soap Box— Words from our President

de Skip, KJ6Y



Well, the Ducie Island group and San Felix group are up and running as I write this. The Ducie group seems to be doing a good job after a rough start. I've been able to work them on most of the bands except so far except 30, 80, and 160. Hopefully they'll get there while I'm around to work them. I also have worked the XR0X group on most of the band too. Just 30 and 160 too go. Marilyn and Dana have also worked them.

Thanks to Herb for helping make the meeting last month go smoothly. Great raffle prizes. We managed to survive even though our program Will, K6NDV left for Boston that morning to start a new job. We wish him luck. It was nice to see sev-

eral new people at the meeting. Be sure to make them feel welcome the next time.

The Convention is this month and of course there is NO meeting. The May meeting is the picnic on May 11th. Be sure to get your raffle square for the Icom 706 radio. Herb tells me they're going fast. Let Rich, W6VX know what you'd like to bring as a side dish or dessert for the picnic. The club will be providing the main course and drinks. This is a family picnic, so bring the spouse, girlfriends, kids and grand-kids.

Easter and Passover are coming up and I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday. See you at the convention.

P5 Report

We recently received the following info from Hrane for release to DX community.

In one word it was a thrill !!!

We arrived to Pyongyang on March 5-th, where we were welcomed by representatives of Ministry of Telecommunications and Foreign Affairs.

We were stationed in YANGAKDO Hotel, on the bank of the river with the same name. The hotel has 47 floors, and we were on the 40-th floor, with almost ideal conditions for work. All our equipment was put together, and we were about to start our operation with previously assigned call sign P5A.

Unexpectedly the uniformed military official appeared, and imposed ban on our operation, until the permission of military authorities is obtained.

It was supposed to be available on March 8-th, but nobody showed up, possibly because of holiday. We did not want to risk starting unauthorized

operation. Meanwhile we had fun listening all pirates pretending to be us, when we did not make a single contact.

Finally, the military official showed up on Sunday and simply said: "No transmission until further notice."

Than we did not have any choice but to leave. After landing in Beijing, our only comment was: Never Again !!!

Ducie Island Report

(Ed note: This information is from the DXpedition web site.)

Logs were not available at this writing. They will appear on the website at a later date. Please don't panic.

Approximately 52,000 QSOs were made by the Ducie team. Fifteen meters provided the majority of the contacts.



The "beauty" of Ducie as seen by DXers is mainly due to the fine job done by the team. It took a few tries but when the conditions were right and the seas cooperated, the operating team did a fantastic job of filling the logs with the calls of the deserving.

We thank them all!



The Veeeeeep Speaks

de Herb KG6OK

Thanks to everyone that attended the meeting last month! I think everyone had a great time, and it was a very well attended meeting, with some great prizes, if I do say so myself. Speaking of prizes, I expect to continue to have some great, interesting and different prizes at the monthly raffles, so bring your extra cash to the meeting, and take a chance to win something! Congratulations to Harv, W8DX who walked out with the new AOR TDF-370. If you haven't seen this unit yet, you should check it out. This gizmo offers all kinds of audio filtering, noise reduction, "High Fidelity" SSB, Stereo CW Reception, Digital Modes without a PC, and more! Congrats Harv!

This past month has been an exciting one for DXing, with the XR0X, and VP6DI DXpeditions. With real work and Visalia convention planning, I didn't have as much time to operate as I would have liked, but still picked up a bunch of new band / mode contacts for XR0X, and another new one for Ducie Island. Congratulations to the many members of the SCDXC that just about "clean swept" those guys! The competition was pretty fierce....

Speaking about Visalia, this past month I have been working hard to make sure that we have a great assortment of prizes for the convention, and I think you won't be disappointed. We have

Club Rosters

The 2002 rosters will be distributed at the next regular meeting. If you want a copy sooner, send an e-mail to the editor.

Meeting Notice

There will not be a regular meeting in April. See you in Visalia.



over 65 dealers, vendors, and manufactures that have donated prizes this year, and we should have over 30 exhibitors displaying their products at the convention! So plan to **bring some extra cash and buy those raffle tickets**, and walk out of there with a great new radio, antenna, tower, etc.

Bring \$\$\$ to Visalia! Win BIG

The word is out. KG6OK tells us that there will be a fantastic array of raffle prizes. From radios to widgets, this will be a record year.

Goodies for EVERYONE. Plan to buy lots of tickets so YOU can be the BIG WINNER!

By the way, here is just another reminder.... We will be having a special raffle for an ICOM 706MKII-G the club picnic on Saturday, May 11, 2002. The picnic will be at the same location - Woodley Park, Sepulveda Basin - same as last year. Right now, there are still 30 squares available to sell at a cost of \$10 / square for this special raffle. If you are interested in purchasing some raffle squares, you can mail your check to me (payable to the SCDXC, and let me know how many squares you want - \$10 / square). I will also be selling the squares at the DX Convention, to **club members only**, so if you want some squares then, track me down and

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the International DX Convention in Visalia on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 26-28. 73 and gud DXing till then!

K6CH SK



Russ, K6CH, A long time Charter Member of the SCDXC became a Silent Key on March 9th. He will be missed very much.

Ham Puzzle

By Milt, W6RJO

"Ace This Quiz or build Xtal Radios." sez Milt

1. An IRC (International Reply Coupon) can be exchanged for:
 - a. A 160-meter QSL from Libya
 - b. One unit of airmail postage
 - c. A prepaid postcard
 - d. A commemorative cancellation

2. True or False?
 - a. 30, 17 and 12-meter contacts do not count for DXCC
 - b. Contest contacts do not count for DXCC
 - c. Local time should be used for DX QSLs
 - d. Using phonetics makes you sound like a rookie
 - e. The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service handles US-to-US QSLs.

3. If instructed to send a QSL "via CBA," what address do you use?
 - a. The Canadian Brasspounders Association
 - b. The latest *Callbook* address
 - c. The DX station's incoming QSL bureau.

4. Match the awards with the sponsoring country or organization:

a. WAJA	f. England
b. DLD	g. Germany
c. WAB	h. Canada
d. WAC	i. Japan
e. WAVE	j. IARU

5. If the DX station answers another caller, you should:
 - a. Keep calling, they will hear your call and work you next.
 - b. Answer them as if they called you, they will work you anyway
 - c. Talk to your friends on the frequency about the DX station's style
 - d. Announce the DX station's instructions for everyone's information

e.



None of the above

- 6.. How many contacts are required for the Worked All Continents award?
 - a. 10
 - b. 7
 - c. 6
 - d. 100

7. The "Century" in the DX Century Club award title stands for
 - a. The 20th century
 - b. Working 100 different DX countries
 - c. Working 100 different DX stations
 - d. Receiving 100 DX QSLs

8. At the latest DX club meeting, the Old Timer said, "Don't bother sending that guy a card, he's a Slim!" What does that mean?
 - a. The OT just doesn't want you to get credit for that country .
 - b. The DX station you worked was a bootlegger .
 - c. The DX station doesn't return QSLs.
 - d. Send it anyway, the OT is just pulling your leg.

9. If your QSL has information on two sides, what item should be on both sides?
 - a. Your address
 - b. The time of the QSO
 - c. The mode used to make the QSO
 - d. Your call sign

- 10 The best way to find out about

DXpeditions and QSL routes is:

- a. The local DX club
- b. DX newsletter
- c. Packet or Internet DX bulletins:
- d. On-the-air QSOs

11. To work a DX station on "long path," aim your signal:

- a. Along the longer of the two Great-Circle routes to the DX
- b. 90° away from any Great-Circle bearing
- c. Slightly off the shorter Great-Circle bearing
- d. anywhere, but get up early

12. If the DX station is working "split," he is :

- a. Using a separate receiver and transmitter
- b. Receiving and transmitting on different frequencies
- c. Frequently changing bands
- d. Operating both CW and SSB on the same frequency.

Answer to last months QSL card mix-up.

Art got the Burmese card. Don got the Nieuwe card. Ernie got the Gambian card. Skip got the Oman card. And Dick got the Nepalese card.



World wide
friendship through
DXing!

Propagation—April 2002

by Shel, W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month.

Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 180, corresponding to a sunspot number of 140, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed.

Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.
Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

XW Laos - 4/20 to 5/10 -
Beam 316 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/30) 2246/1125
40: 1200-1300.
20: 0930-1530.

15: 1430-1900 and 0700-0830.

OX Greenland - 4/23 to 5/8 - Beam
19 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/1) 0415/0123
40: 0330-0500.
20: 0030-1300.

KH1 Baker & Howland Is. -
4/30 to 5/10 -
Beam 251 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/5) 1743/0544
80: 0830-1230.
40: 0630-1300.
20: 0430-1500.
15: 0100-1500 and 1630-2030.
10: 1730-0830.

TN Congo - 5/17 to 5/27 -
Beam 64 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/22) 0500/1654
40: 0330-0430.
20: 0100-0600.
15: 2030-0330 and 0600-0800.



JT Mongolia - 5/21 to 6/4 -
Beam 332 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/28)
2113/1234
20: 1030-1430.
15: 1230-1600 and 0230-0900.

Spotting Derby

de K6EXO

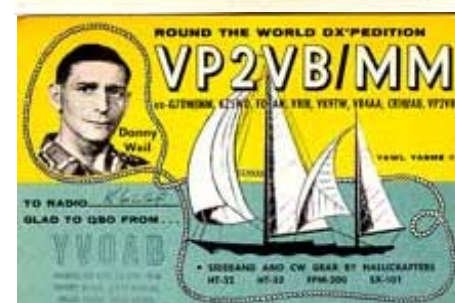
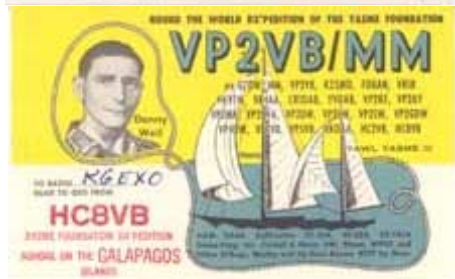
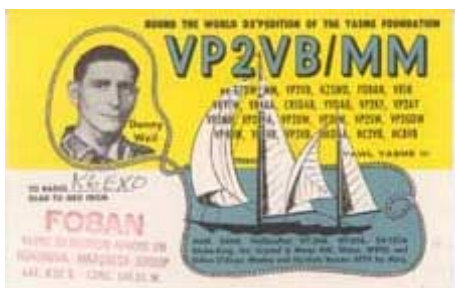


March saw some decent conditions and a new country — that boosted the scores somewhat. Scores were adversely affected because of cluster backbone problems. However, the playing field is still even as the errors that may have been caused by this problem will affect everyone the same.

Hope to see you in Visalia.

Here are the results of the derby for March 2002.

Spotter	Spots	Score	N6OU	8	20
-----	-----	-----	KN6H	7	17
W6TG	129	434	K6FG	3	17
WA6TLA	114	359	W60ES	8	14
WB6RSE	79	241	KG60K	7	13
W6VX	44	120	K5KT	4	12
KJ6Y	26	86	N6RT	3	11
N6HC	25	57	K6YRA	2	10
W6LAX	19	56	KC6T	4	8
N6HY	19	53	W06M	3	7
AD6KQ	20	51	K6EXO	5	6
K6GX0	20	49	W6RW	4	6
N6IC	23	45	W6YJ	3	5
K6YUI	10	39	W6EA	3	4
W6SR	17	35	W6Y00	3	4
N6KZ	14	30	K6IRA	2	4
KC6X	8	30	W6GA	2	3
W6KK	12	27	WA5VGI	2	3
W7RF	6	25	W6ZH	1	2
AK6I	10	24	WA6WXD	1	2



Yes

We D O remember!

It does not seem so long ago when the HOT DXpedition was Danny Weil and his attempt to solo-sail around the world with a Ham Station and a lot of good wishes. We hope that the book commissioned by the Yasme Foundation and being written by Jim Cain, K1TN, will tell the whole story of this remarkable fellow.

The saga began in 1955 when Danny sailed from G land with the overall goal of being the first Englishman to sail single-handedly around the globe, occasionally using the unauthorized call sign **G7DW/MM**. When he arrived at KV4 he met Dick Spenceley, KV4AA, who helped him to get his amateur radio call sign - **VP2VB**.

Over the next eight years he stopped at many out of the way DX locations, set up his amateur radio station, and gave everyone interested a contact with a rare country. Danny gave out thousands of DX contacts from some 30 different DXCC countries around the world.

His vessel, **S/Y YASME**, was lost three times over that period.

While I could not find anything about the loss of *Yasme I*, The loss of the 2nd and 3rd vessel was well documented.

Yasme II went up in flames. Danny acquired the yacht in *Scotland* in

September and started sailing her down to *Poole*, his home port near *Isle of Wight* in the *English Channel*.

In the *Irish Sea*, while refueling west of *Hollyhead*, an explosion occurred which blew Danny into the water where he was able to reach a buoy until rescued by a life-boat. *Yasme II* was a total loss.

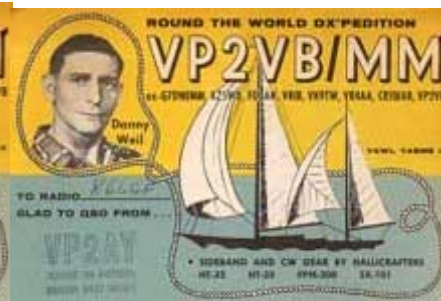
Danny's statement to a Liverpool paper: "As soon as insurance is collected for my loss I shall buy another boat and carry on as planned!"

In October 1956, and 130 miles from Port Moresby the *Yasme III* ran up on a submerged, uncharted reef and was a total loss. Fortunately, Danny was picked up by air rescue after he got off a fast **SOS** by radio.



This occurred, in total darkness, at 8:55 PM local time. The impact started the plating to spring and the *Yasme* began to take water faster than pumps could handle it and she started to settle on the reef. A distress signal was sent on the radio and the Port Moresby Air-Sea Rescue Services were alerted. A plane was sent out and Danny was quickly located. A rubber dinghy was dropped from the plane and Danny swam 200 yards to it through shark infested waters. At this time the tide was rising and the *Yasme* was submerged. After seven hours in the dinghy, waiting for daylight, a Catalina aircraft was sent out, picked up Danny and took him to Port Moresby.

For the thousands of DXers who scored new ones we thank you OM!

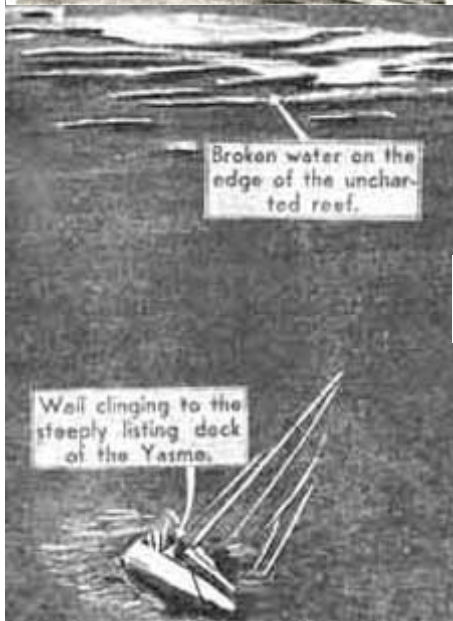




Danny shown with Yasmee I under construction.



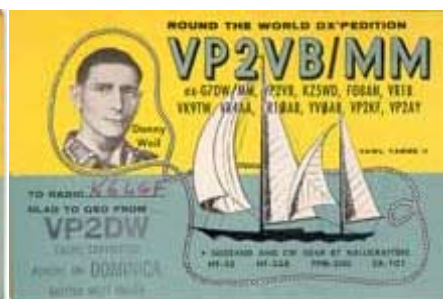
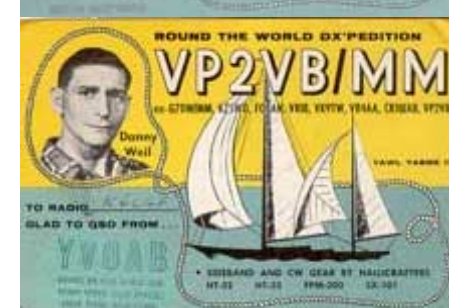
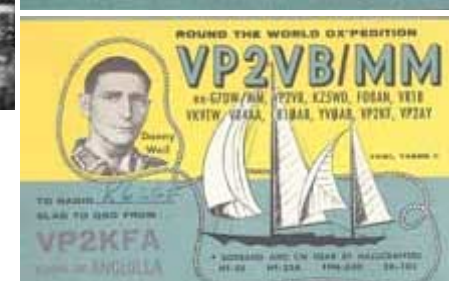
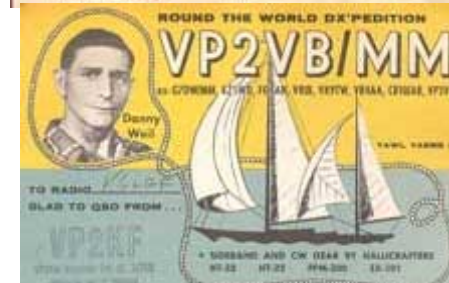
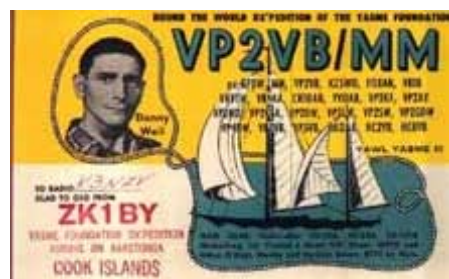
The site of the reef incident.



Last year Danny celebrated his 82nd Birthday, in his home in San Antonio, Texas. He is shown here with the keys he used.



Tnx to SM6CNS [DU7CC] for permission to use text from his excellent web site: www.DX.just.nu and to Jim Cian, K1TN (Yasme Foundation) for some photos. Also tnx to Al K6YRA, for supplying some of the great QSLs,



SCDXC Visits Chuck, KN6H

Editor:

Believe me, my station is VERY mediocre. Boy, will I get the haw-haws. You may also receive puzzled inquiries why you included such a mediocre station. I won't be offended in the least if you decide to drop the whole idea.

On the other hand, if you're trying to encourage members with middle-of-the-road stations to be more active, I'd be pleased and flattered to be selected as a role model to give them some encouragement.

KN6H DX Highlights

1) Originally licensed in 1948 in Illinois as W9DOY. Class B license.

2) Worked All States CW on one frequency, 7150 kc as WÆDOY in Minnesota. The rig was a homebuilt 6AG7/6L6 with one crystal. Receiver a BC-455 surplus from a B-17. Antenna FARM was a folded dipole of 300-ohm TV twin lead. (40 meters was all CW then).

3) Dropped ham radio in the early '50's when someone began talking on my frequency.

4) Rekindled interest in 1956 during Communications Officer school at Scott AFB, IL.. The base bookstore had Heathkits very cheap. I bought a DX-100 for \$180 and built it in my BOQ room. Also located a used NC-183 receiver and was back on the air.

4) Again lost interest in 1962 when SSB made my equipment obsolete.

5) Regained interest in 1978 when



WA6LOD introduced me to a widow selling a pair of Drake B-line twins. (T4XB, R4B, MC-4, AC-4).

6) Upgraded to Extra in 1980 and earned DXCC phone in 1981 with a TS-830S, SB-220 and KT-34A at 60'.

7) Gave up DXing in 1988 when the City of Torrance asked me to establish a ham radio emergency communications system. Requests from Honda, Toyota and the City of Inglewood all followed. Equipment, licensing classes, construction, training kept me very busy for 12 years.

8) Burned out by February 2000, turned over the 100-ham City system (the Torrance Amateur Radio Association) to W6RXD. Resumed chasing DX.

9) Current total: 315 countries worked (including the P5) with 310 confirmed on the KT-34A and a ragtag collection of house wire dipoles on 12, 17, 30, 40 meters.

Certificates for DXCC Phone, Mixed, CW.

Most Interesting DX QSOs:

- 1) Worked Norway and Sweden on 75 meters from the top of the Greenland ice cap using a 220-mile long wire.
- 2) Was working a friend in Palmer,

Alaska when the big Good Friday quake hit in '64. Asphalt going up and down like waves, he said, then suddenly QRT as power failed. Came back on the air in a few minutes from his mobile rig. Great play-by-play.

- 3) Phone patched an 18-yr old on a yacht in the Tuamotos to his parents in Palos Verdes. They had not heard from him for months – had feared the worst.
- 4) Phone patched a lonesome sailor wintering at the South Pole to his fiancée in Denver. (It was embarrassing to read the mail – they clearly missed each other and forgot the whole world was listening).

Callsigns held:

W9DOY 1948 (Illinois)
WÆDOY 1949 (Minnesota)
KL7EAZ 1961 (Alaska)
K7UGZ 1963 (Washington)
WA6TMC 1966 (California)
ZL0AFT 1978 (New Zealand)
KN6H 1980 (California)



Who We Are

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Please notify the BULLETIN publishing team if you do not receive your Newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions for the Newsletter to the editor.

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Club Repeater: W6AM/R
145.48 MHz, 100 Hz PL
Club Web Site: www.scdxc.org

Editor:
Harvey Shore K6EXO
6433 Pat Ave West Hills, CA 91307
(818) 716-5681
E-mail: K6EXO@arrl.net



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Members may place non-commercial ads in the Newsletter.
Submit copy to the editor. Deadline is the 20th.

WANTED!

Articles, QSLs and photos/stories are needed for the SCDXC Newsletter. The quality of the Newsletter depends upon your inputs.

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